

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 L-03 T-03 USPS-02 EB-11 OC-06 CCO-00

RSR-01 M-03 A-01 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 /104 W
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R 130458 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1449

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS TEHRAN 1594

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI, IR, US

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TERMINATES APO
PRIVILEGES FOR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL

SUMMARY: UNDER NEW APO PROCEDURES, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS HAS DEINED RIGHT OF RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL TO
SEND AND RECEIVE PACKAGES THROUGH APO SYSTEM. RULING
TAKES EFFECT IN THREE MONTHS. LETTER MAIL UNAFFECTED.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN LATE FEBRUARY, EMBASSY COMPLETED LENGTHY
NEGOTIATIONS WITH MFA FOR NEW PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING OF
APO MAIL THROUGH IRANIAN CUSTOMS. NEGOTIATIONS WERE LONG
STYMIED OVER MFA INSISTENCE ON CUSTOMS' RIGHT ROUTINELY
TO OPEN PERSONAL PACKAGES. UNDER AGREED UPON PROCEDURES
PACKAGES WILL BE TREATED ON SAME BASIS AS DIPLOMATIC MAIL,
ALTHOUGH CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS MUST BE FILLED IN FOR EACH
SHIPMENT.

2. AS PART OF NEW PROCEDURES, EMBASSY IS REQUIRED TO
GUARANTEE FOR EACH SHIPMENT THAT CONTENTS ARE DESTINED
FOR QTE OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL USE OF MISSION EMPLOYEES UNQTE.
IN ORDER TO CLARIFY WHETHER THIS LANGUAGE WOULD
ELIMINATE APO PRIVILEGES OF RETIRED PERSONNEL, DCM
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RAISED MATTER WITH MFA ON FEBRUARY 26. IN DOING SO, WE ALSO HAD IN MIND NEW APO REGULATIONS ISSUED JANUARY 23, 1973 WHICH LIMITED RIGHT OF RETIRED PERSONNEL TO USE MILITARY POSTAL FACILITIES TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE HOST GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION.

3. DCM DESCRIBED BACKGROUND AND BASIS OF APO PRIVILEGES FOR RETIRED PERSONNEL AND POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES GOI MIGHT FACE IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING RETIRED PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS. MFA RESPONDED NEGATIVELY. IF RETIRED PERSONNEL WERE NEITHER MEMBERS OF AMERICAN MISSION NOR OTHER WISE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY FREE PRIVILEGES, THEY COULD NOT UTILIZE APO SYSTEM FOR PERSONAL PACKAGES.

4. DCM EXPLAINED MFA DECISION TO SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF RETIRED MILITARY COMMUNITY ON MARCH 6. THEY TOOK RULING PHILOSOPHICALLY, MAKING SPECIAL PLEA FOR CONTINUANCE OF LETTER MAIL. IN FURTHER DCM- MFA CONVERSATION, MINISTRY INDICATED IT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUANCE OF THAT PRIVILEGE. MFA ALLOWED THREE MONTHS FOR TERMINATION OF RETIRED USE OF APO FOR PACKAGE MAIL.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING MADE TO RETIRED PERSONNEL, INFORMING THEM OF MFA RULING.

6. AS RULING WILL AFFECT LIFE STYLE OF RETIRED PERSONNEL, WE CAN ANTICIPATE PROTESTS AND CONGRESSIONAL MAIL. RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE OFFICERS IN DEPARTMENT AND DOD BE ALERTED TO THIS POSSIBILITY. HECK

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